The City University of New York

2005-2006 State Budget Priorities

- **Senior College Operating Budget Shortfall** ***$26.3 million***

The Executive Budget does not provide sufficient funds to meet the costs of operating the senior colleges at current service levels. The Senior Colleges face a budget gap of $26.3 million that should be eliminated or the University must reduce services. The $26.3 million dollar gap includes $2.6 million for Environmental Health and Safety needs; $1.4 million for mandatory staffing costs at the new Student Services building at Medgar Evers College; $3.7 million for energy costs; $10.0 million for new leases at John Jay College, Baruch College, the New York City College of Technology and the new School of Journalism; $4.1 million to support functions at the University Application Processing Center, and $4.5 million for new faculty commitments.

- **Tuition Revenue Increase** ***$37.3 million***

The Executive Budget provides for the equivalent of a $250 tuition increase for full-time resident undergraduate students that will require an overall rise in tuition revenue of $37.3 million. A tuition increase of 6.3 percent (from $4,000 to $4,250 annually) will make a marked difference for our students, and would equate to an overall tuition increase of over $1,000 (almost 32%) in just 24 months. Six of 10 CUNY students come from households earning $30,000 or less, and seven of 10 work full or part time. We must protect, as a first priority, qualified students who cannot afford to attend college.

- **Financial Aid** ***$12.7 million***

The student financial aid components of both SEEK ($6.9 million) and College Discovery ($0.4 million), whose collective mission is to serve the poorest students in the University, were eliminated in the Executive Budget. Over the last three years enrollments in SEEK and College Discovery have grown by nearly 10% and increasingly reflect the immense racial and ethnic diversity that are the hallmarks of New York City demography. The University is requesting $5.4 million in State support for Doctoral Student Fellowships. The provision of tuition remission would significantly enhance CUNY's competitive position for the very best applicants in fields such as science and technology.

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is a critical safety net that allows financially disadvantaged students to attend the University. In Fall 2003, more than 61,000 of CUNY's undergraduate, degree-seeking students received TAP funding. The proposed changes to TAP in the Executive Budget will impact on all higher education sectors and will cause students to incur additional debt or drop out.

- **State Aid for Community Colleges** ***$9.8 million***

All CUNY and SUNY Community Colleges are seeking base aid funding of $2,385 per FTE, an increase of $150. The Executive Budget maintains the same state aid per FTE rate ($2,235) for the community colleges. This base aid increase will help ameliorate last year's FTE reduction, as well as to assist the University in covering increased mandatory costs at the Community Colleges.

- **Senior College Capital Budget** ***$151.0 million***

The University requests that crucial projects for the Senior Colleges added last year by the Legislature and subsequently vetoed be reinstated. A total of $151 million is needed, which includes: $62 million for critical Facilities/Infrastructure needs; $25 million in additional funds for Network Infrastructure and Information Systems; $50 million in additional funds for Academic Building I at New York City College of Technology; $10 million for Hunter College's Visual and Performing Arts Center; and $4.3 million in additional funding for the College of Staten Island.

- **Community College Capital Budget** ***$166.2 million***

The Community Colleges and Medgar Evers College have critical needs to fund health and safety projects and to provide for academic programs and enrollment growth. The University is requesting an additional $166.2 million: $108 million for CUNY-wide health & safety and infrastructure upgrade projects, added by the Legislature last year but subsequently vetoed, which included roof replacement and fire alarm upgrades at Kingsborough Community College, renovation of the Chambers Street Building for BMCC, the North Instructional Building at Bronx Community College, 500 Grand Concourse at Hostos Community College, Center III at LaGuardia Community College, and the Holocaust Center at Queensborough Community College. The University is requesting an additional $58 million for other projects, including the design and construction of an instructional building at Queensborough Community College; acquisition and remediation of the Sanitation Department garage site being purchased for the expansion of Medgar Evers College and additional CUNY-wide health & safety and infrastructure upgrade projects.

The City University of New York

2005-2006 State Budget Priorities

- **Senior College Programmatic Improvements:**

Flagship Environment ***$23.0 million***

The most critical component in building disciplinary strength and in assuring the intellectual life and vitality of the University is the full-time faculty and its support staff. A strong faculty, in turn, helps attract promising students. In the last two years alone, we have added more than 600 new full-time faculty, and now have close to 6,300. We must enhance and maximize this investment by providing our faculty with a talented and ample support staff. The University has also been mounting technology initiatives designed to enhance instruction and equip graduates with the skills needed to contribute to the City and State's economic vitality.

Fostering a Research Environment ***$12.6 million***

CUNY continues to launch initiatives that represent important and timely areas of research – some that allow unique niches to be established and others that can continue to bind the colleges into an integrated University. Libraries are also central to the University's teaching and research excellence. Collections in print, digital, and other formats must continue to be enhanced.

Student Success & Academic Achievement ***$11.1 million***

The University must continue to improve its Teacher Education initiatives to ensure that the New York City public schools have adequately trained teachers, and strengthen its partnership with the public schools on critical programs like College Now. We are also committed to availing our students with seamless transfer within the integrated University. In addition, CUNY presently enrolls more than 8,000 students with disabilities, and has emphasized on fully assimilating this population into all aspects of University life. We must continue to take steps to ensure these students have equal access to the same range of opportunities as other enrolled students.

Upgrading Infrastructure ***$7.5 million***

CUNY's technology infrastructure requires an upgrade if we are to keep pace with other top institutions. The University also needs to provide the physical space and facilities conducive to the demands of a world-class learning and research environment, as well as to fully accommodate our highest enrollment in 30 years.